MEETING NOTES

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
TECHNICAL TASK FORCE

DATE: Friday, May 19, 2000

TIME: 12:30 P.M.

PLACE: COG, 777 North Capitol Street, NE
                       First Floor, Room 4/5

CHAIR: Emil Wolanin, Montgomery County Department of Public Works
                       and Transportation

VICE CHAIRS: Wils DerMinassian, D.C. Department of Public Works
                       Donald McCanless, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
                       Authority
                       Alex Verzosa, City of Fairfax

ATTENDANCE:

Armen Abrahamian, P.G. Co. DPW&T, aabrahamian@co.pg.md.us
Terry Bellamy, Arlington Co. DPW-TE, tbell@co.arlington.va.us
Zia Burleigh, VDOT, burleigh_zm@vdot.state.va.us
John Collura, Virginia Tech, collura@vt.edu
Soumya Dey, TransCore, soumya.dey@transcore.com
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Breck Jeffers, FHWA-MD, breck.jeffers@fhwa.dot.gov
Tom Jennings, FHWA-Richmond, tom.jennings@fhwa.dot.gov
Lora Mayo, WMATA, lmayo@wmata.com
Glenn McLaughlin, MDSHA/CHART, gmclaughlin@sha.state.md.us
Frank Mirack, FHWA

Jean Yves Point-du-Jour, MDSHA/DOTS, jpoint-du-jour@sha.state.md.us
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Kenneth Todd, Member of the Public
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ACTIONS:

1. Review of Notes from the March 24, 2000 Meeting
Chair Emil Wolanin called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. No changes were made to the April 28, 2000 notes.

2. Presentation on Regional ITS Telecommunications Study
Ward Zerbe presented on the update of the Washington Area Telecommunications Study. Glenn McLaughlin began the presentation with a brief synopsis of the study. He stated that in September 1999, MDSHA did an inventory and analysis of what telecommunication resources were available in the Washington DC area. In March, a first draft of the study was presented to the Telecommunications subcommittee. The committee recommended that MDSHA should improve the suggested communications network between the agencies and include the recommendations from the Regional Architecture Study, which is to be completed in February 2001. Mr. Zerbe reviewed the following objectives of the project:
- Telecommunications assets supporting ITS systems within each jurisdiction;
- Available and planned telecommunications infrastructure;
- Telecommunications alternatives for supporting information sharing;
- Opportunities to exchange ITS information between jurisdictions.

Mr. Zerbe discussed the following recent activities that have been completed by MDSHA, following the March meeting with the Stakeholders: additional interviews and site surveys were completed and an order-of-magnitude cost of backbone fiber network developed. Mr. Zerbe concluded the presentation with an overview of the draft report and a brief discussion of the preliminary findings, which are as follows:

- Support the growing interest in Traveler Information, Traffic Signal Control, Transit Management, and Incident Management;
- Significant interest in sharing CCTV camera images and incident management data;
- Creating a regional fiber optic network with VDOT, MDSHA and WMATA;
- Establishing regional fiber optic cable connections to facilitate a regional ITS focus.

The next step is to identify the sites, equipment and cost estimates to finalize the telecommunications backbone for the region. The report would be completed by the end of June.

In response to a question from Mr. Wolanin, Mr. Ward stated that the there has been an effort to provide a cost estimate of ongoing maintenance of the backbone, however that task should be addressed further. Mr. Ward also stated that ideally, there should be a coordinated effort with a central agency that would be responsible for monitoring connections and maintaining the operations. That central agency would be identified by either the committee or by amount of assets owned by the agency.

In response to a question from Myron Smith, Mr. Ward said that the US Wireless project could be used to get information from cell phones for radio broadcast on traffic information.

Mr. Meese noted the importance of the telecommunications study results being used for the ITS Regional Architecture and the ITS Strategic Plan.

3. Update of Mailing Lists and Subcommittee/Working Group Rosters
Mr. Meese revised the list and copies of the working groups that would be offered to the Task Force, and suggested the working group chairs work with COG staff on notifying committee members and scheduling meeting dates. Mr. Smith suggested that, when sending out emails, staff should Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) all committee members for privacy and efficiency reasons.

4. Update on Proposed ITS Deployment Game
The group scheduled the ITS Deployment Game for Thursday, July 6, 2000, 12:30 pm. Additional information was to be emailed.

5.   Reports from the Working Groups/Subcommittees/Focus Areas

Traffic Signals and Operations: Jeris White reported that the committee was currently accepting survey responses from the Regional Traffic Signal Optimization and Inventory study. The next scheduled meeting was scheduled on June 30.

ITS Training: Mr. White stated that the Professional Capacity Building Subcommittee would hold the next meeting on July 12, 2000 at Virginia Tech, Falls Church Campus, at 10 am. The agenda was to discuss vendors, course content, and funding initiatives for the training courses. Kathleen Frankle distributed an ITS on-line training flyer, advertising ITS web based courses from the Consortium for ITS Training and Education (CITE), available beginning in June.

Regional ITS Telecommunications Study: The report was earlier in the agenda. In response to a question, Mr. Meese stated that this group was expected to sunset after the completion of the study.

Regional ITS Architecture: Mr. McLaughlin reported that the subcommittee met on May 12, with good representation from the region. Mr. McLaughlin stated the purpose of the subcommittee as being a regional effort to improve organized ITS deployment and compliance with the National Architecture. He also stated that the group would act as an advisory group to the ITS Policy and Technical Task Force groups; overseeing regional architectural activities; and to provide a forum on ITS architectural compliance. The group shared information on proposed and current regional ITS architecture developments. This effort would serve as an unofficial documentation of the region's ITS initiatives. MDSHA was the lead and contracting agency. MDSHA was to choose among three consultants they already had under their Network Services Contract (task order), but who could render technological services and report to the full regional working group. The possible companies were Bell Atlantic, Lockheed Martin, and Computer Sciences Corporation. The next meeting was be held on Thursday, June 15 at 1:30 pm in Rooms 4/5. Topics for discussion were to include identifying financial responsibility of the group, architectural training opportunities, and the possibility of hiring a regional architecture coordinator.

Mr. Meese acknowledged Lora Mayo and WMATA for hosting a federal ITS Architecture training session on May 16-17. Staff would be exploring the use of the Turbo Architecture software in both the architecture and strategy efforts.

Electronic Payment Systems: Sharmila Samarasinghe reported that the final draft of the report should be available by the end of July. The ITS Technical Task Force would be used as a forum for reviewing the document. Mr. Meese suggested that the group should review a draft of the report before the final document is presented, and Ms. Samarasinghe agreed to send this out by email.

There was no report on the progress of the FTA's award on the coordinated electronic payments contract.

N-1-1: Frank Mirack stated that the FTC had delayed the N-1-1 petition for set up until Fall 2000. George Mason's development of the white papers for N-1-1 were still in progress.

ITS as a Data Resource: Mr. Meese reported that the ITS as a Data Resource contract had been finalized and TransCore had been given notice to proceed. The next meeting date of the ITS As a Data Resource Working Group was to be May 25 at 9:00 am. New members were welcomed. The meeting was to have two parts. The first part would discuss the TransCore contract on ITS as a Data Resource study. The second part would discuss with Karen Cavallo Miller the data archiving process of Partners In Motion, and how their archived information might be used for future analysis.

IDAS Model: Mr. Meese stated that the official Intelligent Transportation System Deployment Analysis System (IDAS) model was released at a price of $795. IDAS was proposed to be used to help the region identify ongoing and proposed ITS projects that could be shown to have air quality benefits. This would be overseen by the Travel Management Subcommittee, which has the purview to identify and recommend Transportation Emission Reduction Measures (TERMS) to help the region meet air quality targets. Daivamani Sivasailam noted that the Travel Management Subcommittee would be looking to the ITS Technical Task Force and its working groups to provide feedback on which ITS strategies might be promising to analyze. The current schedule was to identify emissions benefits for the process by September. A consultant was to be hired to expedite the process.

6. Discussion of ITS Strategic Plan and Other Items to Go to the ITS Policy Task Force for Their May 31 Meeting

Mr. Meese discussed the updated ITS Strategic Plan Outline. Staff created a new outline which includes comments made by the ITS Technical Task Force during the April 28 meeting. Those changes to the outline are as follows:

Chapter 2, Overall Context:
- ITS in the context of transportation systems operations and management; this document should include guidance on operations and management issues as well as technology issues
- Federal guidelines and regulations, and the national state of practice;
- ITS standards for equipment and communications;
- Costs and benefits would be included in the overall context as well as throughout the document;
- Discuss the relationship of ITS planning and the traditional transportation planning process, including similarities and differences;
- Public and stakeholder involvement;

- Recommendations from the January 19, 2000 TPB ITS conference;
- Discussion of the use of the document.

Chapter 3. Areas for Collaboration:

Under the Identification of issues section:
- Timing/sequencing/precursors;
- Standards;
- Business practices, public/private partnerships, resource sharing.

Under the findings and recommendations for component section, action items were included to identify areas where specific actions and tasks should be recommended. Specific action items include, echoing and supporting local and state programs and activities where applicable; and recommending new regional actions. The additional components that would be addressed in the plan are Highway/Railroad Grade Crossing, Commercial Vehicle Operations and ITS as a Data Resource.

This outline was forwarded for the ITS Policy Task Force approval on May 31, 2000.

In response to a comment from Tom Jennings, Mr. Meese stated that the TPB Vision and its role in developing the ITS Strategic Plan would be addressed contextually in Executive Summary, extensively in Chapter 2 and if necessary in each component area. Mr. Wolanin stated that in each components recommendation section, the TPB Vision should be addressed minimally. Lora Mayo discouraged the group from 'drilling down' too far, and being too specific. She stated that a plan of this nature should be general and concise; detailed precision should be avoided.

The Strategic Plan would be updated regularly, so not to preclude any new issues and ideas. The plan should be used to foster new projects in the jurisdictions that are build off of the plan to encourage new technology as well as provide guidelines and encouragement for consistency.

Amy Tang stated that the VDOT Strategic Plan and the 2020 Document should be used as sources in the development of this plan.

Mr. Meese stated that the working group for the ITS Strategic Plan would be with the full ITS Policy and Technical Task Force, there would not be subcommittees formed, because the document was important enough for full committee attention.

The following items were proposed to be included on the agenda of the May 31 ITS Policy Task Force Meeting:

- A revised version of the ITS Strategic Plan Outline and the additional supplementary documents;
- An update from John Collura on the Prioritization Study;
- Brief the Policy Task Force on the Technical issues that have been addressed by this committee;
- Overview of the Draft Proceedings from the January 19, ITS Conference and introduction of the HTML Web site.

7. Other Business

Kathleen Frankle encouraged everyone to look out for the ITS training courses from the Consortium for ITS Training and Education (CITE) which would be available on-line in June.

Mr. Wolanin adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.